

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8901

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1900

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, CFED, MARR

SUBJ: FAREWELL CALL ON PRIME MINISTER L. O. PINDLING

1. U.S. AID PROGRAM. THE PRIMIN EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION WITH THE SUCCESS WHICH WE HAD HAD OVER THE PAST TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS ON THE BARTAD PROGRAM, RECOGNIZING THAT IN OUR FIRST CONVERSATION HE HAD COMMENTED AS TO THE NECESSITY FOR GIVING THAT PROGRAM DIRECTION. HE NOW SOMEWHAT WOEFULLY ADMITTED THAT SUCH LIMITS AS IT WAS NOW EXPERIENCING WERE PRIMARILY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO OBTAIN SUFFICIENT TRAINED MANPOWER TO SUPPORT THE UNDERTAKING. THIS GAVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ABOUT A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHOM THE EMBASSY FEELS ARE GOOD AND NEED MORE TOP LEVEL SUPPORT. THE PRIMIN SEEMED TO BE RECEPTIVE TO MY VIEWS ON THE MATTER. I THEN COMMENTED ON THE FAILURE TO OBTAIN THE LAND TENURE AGREEMENT WHICH HE HAD PREVIOUSLY PROMISED ME HE WOULD PURSUE. I COMMENTED FURTHER THAT I HAD BEEN TOLD THAT ALL THE RELEVANT PARTS OF THE GOVERNMENT NOW AGREED ON THE WORDING AND THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR US TO GET ON WITH THE AGREEMENT. THE PRIMIN INDICATED THAT THE MATTER WAS ON TOMORROW'S CABINET AGENDA AND HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO GET TO THE MATTER DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE AGENDA IS A VERY HEAVY ONE. HE UNDERSTANDS, HOWEVER, THAT CONTINUED DELAY WILL IMPEDE THE PROGRAM.

2. IRS AND OTHER INVESTIGATORY MATTERS. I INDICATED THAT I FELT THAT THE EARLIER UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCE
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WITH CERTAIN OF THE IRS INVESTIGATIONS WAS NOW A CLOSED

CHAPTER. I BELIEVED THAT WE NOW HAD AN EFFECTIVE OPERATING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EMBASSY ON TOP OF AND RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF IRS AND OTHER U.S. INVESTIGATORY AGENCY PERSONNEL IN THE BAHAMAS. WE HAD APPRECIATED THE COOPERATION THAT WE HAD BEEN OBTAINING FROM PAUL ADDERLEY AND WE LOOKED FORWARD TO A CONTINUED RELATIONSHIP OF THAT NATURE. I NOTED THAT THE USG WAS NOW WORKING ON A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT COVERING FUTURE INVESTIGATORY ACTIVITIES WHICH WE WOULD BE SUBMITTING, HOPEFULLY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. I HOPED THAT THE PRIMIN WOULD REVIEW SUCH A PROPOSAL WITH AN OPEN MIND. WITHOUT DIRECTLY COMMENTING ON THIS LATTER POINT, HE REFERRED (AS DID ADDERLEY, SEE NASSAU 1890) TO THE RECENT 60 MINUTE PROGRAM AND THE UNFORTUNATE AND UNFAIR IMPRESSIONS THAT IT LEFT. HOWEVER, AS CONTRASTED TO ADDERLEY, THE PRIMIN DID NOT SEEM TO BE AS NEGATIVE TO THE NOTION OF SOME SORT OF GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH IN FAIRNESS, I SUSPECT THAT HE HAS THOUGHT ABOUT IT LESS THAN HAS ADDERLEY.

3. BOUNDARIES. I DESCRIBED TO HIM MY PREVIOUS CONVERSATION WITH ADDERLEY ON THIS SUBJECT (NASSAU 1637). THE MAJOR POINT WHICH I ATTEMPTED TO LEAVE WITH THE PRIMIN WAS THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT, IF AND WHEN THE BAHAMAS REACHED A JUDGMENT AS TO HOW IT WISHED TO APPROACH THE BOUNDARY ISSUE, THAT IT NOTIFY US PROMPTLY SO THAT WE COULD DISCUSS ANY MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WHICH MIGHT BE RAISED. I SAID I DID NOT EXPECT THAT THERE WOULD BE MAJOR DIFFERENCES, BUT THIS WAS ALL THE MORE REASON FOR HAVING AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE MATTER IN ADVANCE TO BE SURE THAT THAT JUDGMENT WAS CORRECT. THE PRIMIN AGREED. HE ALSO AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE MAJOR DIFFERENCES SINCE "WE WILL PROBABLY COME DOWN ON A DECLARATION SIMILAR TO YOURS."

4. FACILITIES AGREEMENT. I MENTIONED TO THE PRIMIN THAT I THOUGHT WE HAD COME A LONG WAY IN DEFINING A PROPOSAL WITH REGARD TO THE FACILITIES OVER THE LAST TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS. I SAID THAT I THOUGHT OUR OFFER WAS A VERY RESPECTABLE ONE WHICH SHOULD COMMEND

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ITSELF TO THE GCOB. AT THE SAME TIME, I INDICATED THAT WE WERE IN NO SPECIAL HURRY SINCE THE CURRENT INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WE HAD WORKED OUT WERE MEETING OUR NEEDS. THE PRIMIN ASKED ME TO REVIEW WHAT THE TERMS OF OUR LAST PROPOSAL WERE. IN DOING SO, IT WAS PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT HE HAD NOT FOCUSED ON THE MATTER IN THE RECENT PAST. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN I MENTIONED THAT WE HAD AGREED TO MEET THE FULL DOLS 5 MILLION BASE RENTAL REQUEST

THAT THEY HAD MADE OF US AND INDEED HAD OFFERED AN ADDITIONAL DOLS 1 1/2 MILLION WHICH COULD BE USED FOR TECHNICAL TRAINING OF BAHAMIANS ON THE BASE OR WHICH, IF THEY PREFERRED, COULD IN WHOLE OR IN PART PROBABLY BE ADDED ON TO THE BASE RENTAL, NOTING THAT THIS MEANT THAT FOR A 15-YEAR PERIOD WE WERE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING BETWEEN DOLS 90 AND DOLS 100 MILLION HIS EYES PERCEPTIBLY WIDENED. HE WENT ON TO ASK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED EMPLOYMENT OF BAHAMIANS ON THE BASES, NOTING THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY DARRELL ROLLE SOMETIME AGO THAT AN EFFORT IN THIS DIRECTION WAS TO BE MADE. I RECOUNTED AT LENGTH THE EFFORTS THAT WE HAD MADE TOWARD THIS END AND INDEED WERE STILL PREPARED TO MAKE, POINTING OUT THAT THE PROBLEM HAD NOT BEEN OUR LACK OF RESPONSIVENESS ON THIS ISSUE, BUT RATHER THE INABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO COME UP WITH BAHAMIANS WHO WERE EITHER QUALIFIED FOR THE JOBS, OR WHO, IF QUALIFIED, WERE PREPARED TO LEAVE NASSAU FOR ANDROS. THE PRIMIN EVIDENCED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE EXACT STATUS OF THIS PROBLEM AND ASKED ME TO PROVIDE HIM WITH A PERSONAL MEMORANDUM RECOUNTING THE EFFORTS WHICH WE HAD MADE, THE JOBS WHICH WE ARE PREPARED TO FILL WITH BAHAMIANS, ETC., INDICATING THAT HE WOULD PERSONALLY PICK THIS MATTER UP.

5. IN SAYING GOOD-BY, THE PRIMIN INDICATED THAT HE REGRETTED MY DEPARTURE. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT AMBASSADOR JOHNSON HAD CALLED HIM FROM WASHINGTON SAYING THAT A REPORTER HAD QUERIED AMBASSADOR JOHNSON CONCERNING WHETHER MR. OLSON WOULD BE WELCOMED IN NASSAU SINCE THERE WERE REPORTS THAT HE MIGHT NOT BE. THE PRIMIN SAID THAT, WHILE THEY WERE RATHER SURPRISED THAT THE APPOINTMENT HAD BEEN MADE CONSIDERING THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION, THERE WOULD OBVIOUSLY NOT BE

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ANY ANIMOSITY DIRECTED TOWARD MR. OLSON. HE COMMENTED THAT HE PRESUMED MR. OLSON'S TENURE WOULD NOT BE PARTICULARLY LONG.

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